

REMARKS

Claims 23, 25-32, 38-41, 43-51 are currently pending in this application. Claims 23, 25, and 38-41 are amended. Claims 24, 33-37 and 42 are cancelled. The specification is amended and claims 45-51 are added. No new matter is presented. Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and the following remarks, Applicants request the consideration and allowance of claims 23, 25-32, 38-41, and 43-51. Applicants also thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 24-27, 33-37, and 42 recite allowable subject matter.

Claims 1, 28-32, 38, and 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Johnson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 2,878,827). The Examiner takes the position that Johnson teaches or suggests all the features recited in claims 1, 28-32, 38, and 41.

Claim 1 is cancelled. Claims 28-32, 38, and 41 are dependent upon claim 23. Claim 23 is amended to include features recited in claim 24 which is indicated to be allowable. Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 28-32, 38 and 41 recite features neither taught nor suggested by the applied reference. As a result, Applicants request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 28-32, 38, and 41 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

Claims 23, 38-41, 43, and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nishimura (U.S. Patent No. 5,172,722). Claim 23 is amended to include allowable features recited in claim 24. Therefore, Applicants request the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

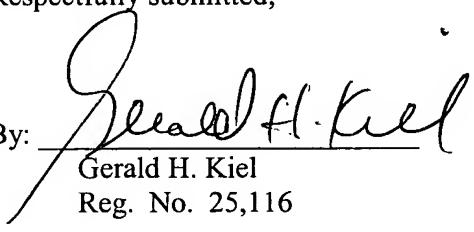
Claims 38-41 and 44 are dependent upon claim 23. Accordingly, Applicants submit claims 38-41 and 44 recite subject matter that is neither taught nor suggested by the applied reference for at least the same reasons. Therefore, Applicants request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 23, 38-41, 43, and 44.

Claims 45-51 are added. No new matter is presented. Claims 45-51 recite features indicated to be allowable. Accordingly, Applicants requests the consideration and allowance of claims 45-51.

Based upon the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and its earlier allowance. Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorney would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact him at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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